

Planning Affordable Family Adventures

Discover possibilities. Consider the costs. Make room for family experiences.

What counts as a family adventure?

A family adventure can be a short neighborhood outing, a visit to a new place, a cultural activity, or time exploring nature. It does not have to involve travel, an admission fee, or a full day away. Families can choose experiences that reflect their interests, schedules, access needs, and resources.

Where can families explore?

Nature & outdoor spaces.

Neighborhood parks, trails, gardens, beaches, nature centers, and public lands. Check hours, conditions, fees, and accessibility.

Culture & discovery.

Museums, galleries, historical sites, community festivals, public art, and cultural events. Ask about free admission periods or discounts.

Libraries & community events.

Storytimes, maker activities, performances, workshops, library programs, and neighborhood celebrations. Some libraries offer passes to local attractions.

Movement & play.

Playgrounds, bike rides, community recreation, accessible play spaces, free sports events, or an outdoor scavenger hunt.

At-home or close-to-home experiences.

Family cooking challenges, themed movie nights, neighborhood photo walks, backyard camping, or shared creative projects.

Ways to explore lower-cost options

Check local calendars.	Public libraries, parks departments, community centers, and cultural organizations may list free or low-cost opportunities.
Ask about admission programs.	Museums for All offers free to \$5 admission per person for up to four people per SNAP EBT card at participating museums; policies and identification requirements should be confirmed with the museum.
Review federal public lands options.	Many National Park Service sites are free, while others charge entrance fees or require reservations. Eligible fourth graders may explore Every Kid Outdoors passes for participating federal lands and waters. Not all sites accept the paper pass, so call ahead to confirm.
Check total costs.	Admission may be only one expense. Include travel, parking, food, equipment, accessibility-related costs, and optional purchases.

Before you go

Consider travel time, weather, bathrooms, food, mobility access, sensory environments, age restrictions, hours, cancellation policies, and whether reservations are needed. Contact the location directly when accommodations or accessible facilities are important to your plans.

REMEMBER: An enjoyable experience can be simple, familiar, spontaneous, or carefully planned. There is no required number of outings or amount of spending for meaningful family time.



My Family Adventure Planner

Use this printable worksheet to explore ideas and plan an outing that works for your household.

1 What are we interested in? (Check any)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ☐ Nature / outdoors | ☐ Museums / culture | ☐ Festivals / community |
| ☐ Sports / movement | ☐ Library / learning | ☐ At-home fun |
| ☐ Something new | ☐ Other: _____ | |

Our family's ideas:

2 Compare two possible outings

Consideration	● Option A	◆ Option B
Destination / activity		
Date and hours		
Travel / parking		
Admission / fees		
Food / supplies		
Access / comfort notes		

3 Estimate our outing cost

Admission \$ _____

Travel / parking \$ _____

Food \$ _____

Other \$ _____

Estimated total \$ _____

Amount our household wants to spend \$ _____

4 Questions to check before going

- ☐ Hours, weather, and any reservation or ticket requirements
- ☐ Admission discounts or free days and eligibility details
- ☐ Accessibility, bathrooms, seating, and sensory considerations
- ☐ Transportation, parking, food policies, and supplies

5 Our next step

Activity we want to explore: _____

Who will check details / make arrangements? _____

Website or contact: _____

Date / next action: _____

Explore trusted resources

Museums for All — Find participating museums

<https://museums4all.org/for-visitors/>

National Park Service — Entrance passes and fees

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>

Every Kid Outdoors — Official program

<https://everykidoutdoors.gov/>

Explore further with OH FAMILY

<https://www.ohfamilyinc.org> — visit Explore & Connect for additional ideas and family resources.

About this guide

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Disclosure: This guide is for general educational and planning purposes. OH FAMILY does not endorse specific destinations or guarantee access, costs, safety, or program availability. Eligibility for discounts, site rules, reservations, and accessibility features differ by location and may change. Confirm current details with the provider before visiting. Families determine which experiences fit their own circumstances.